

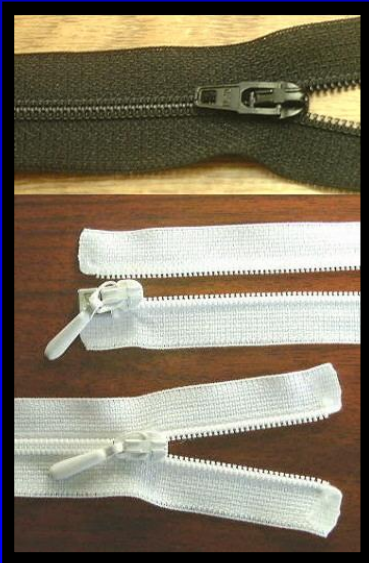
Clothes in Tudor Times



In Tudor times people wore very different clothes to clothes we wear today.

Today we can wear clothes made from **synthetic fabric** such as **nylon**, **polyester** and **acrylic**. These fabrics are made using **chemicals**. They are hard wearing and easy to wash.

Our clothes are easy to fasten, using **zips**, **poppers** and **velcro**.



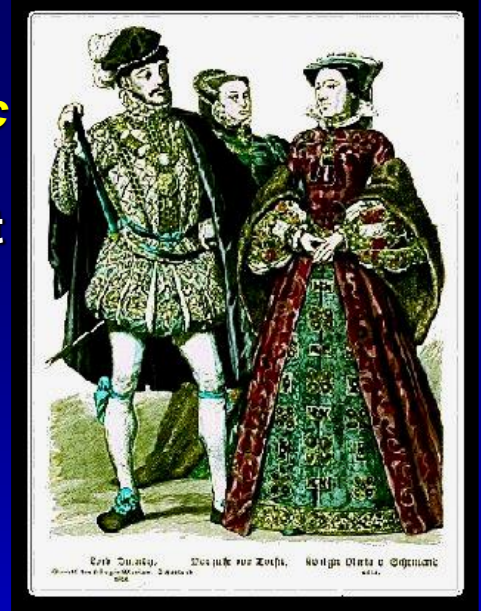


In Tudor times there were no **synthetic fabrics**. All Tudor clothes were made from only **natural fabrics** – fabrics that came from animals or plants.

These fabrics included:
wool, silk, leather, satin. Velvet and fur (from animals)
cotton and hessian from plants.

Rich Tudor people (Royal, Lords and Noblemen, rich merchants) wore clothes that were cut and sewn together very carefully into eye-catching shapes and designs.

The fabrics (silk, cotton, fur) came from far away countries and so were very expensive. The clothes took a long time to make – sometimes up to 12 weeks.



Rich and important Tudor men wore all these expensive clothes to show they were rich and important.

They wore:

Linen cotton shirt :
chemise

Hose (long socks)

Ruff (frilled neck collar)

Velvet Hat

Cape (made
from animal fur
or cotton velvet)

Doublet (padded jacket
with detailed designs)

Trunk Hose or Breeches
(trousers)



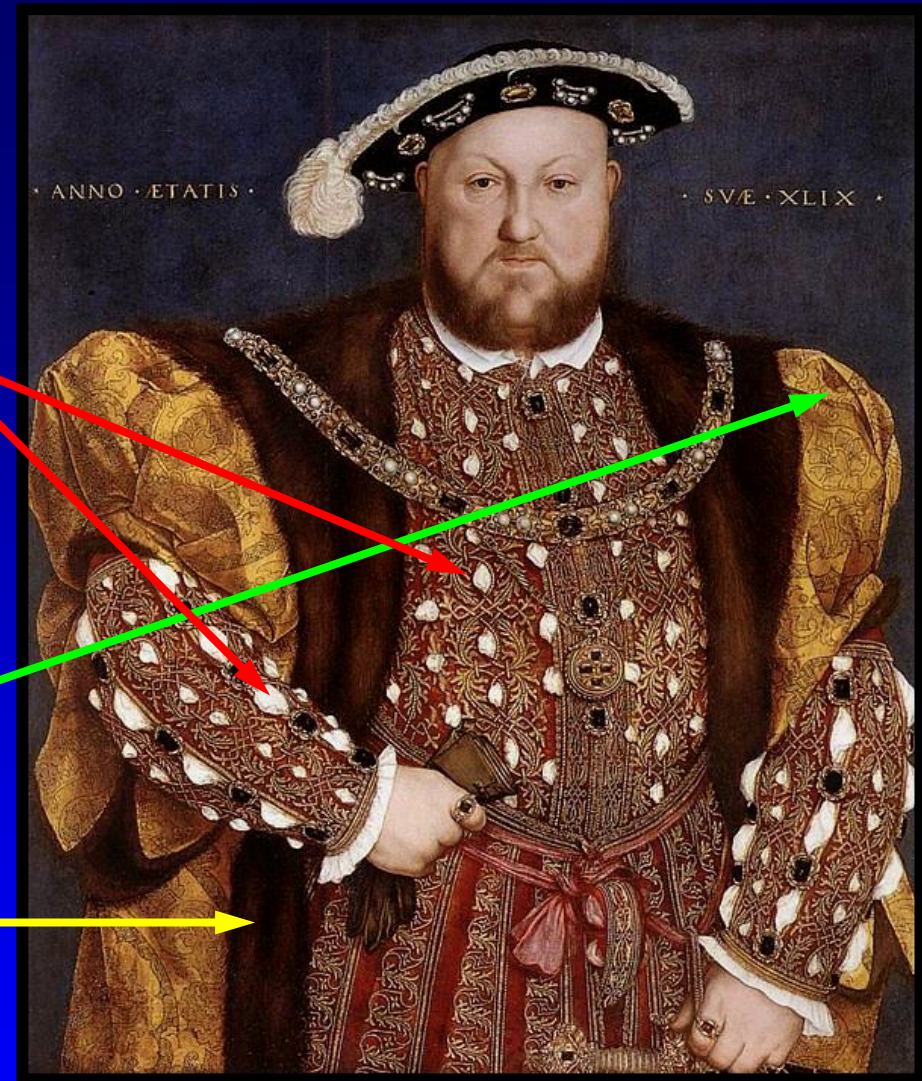
This portrait of **Henry VIII** shows him wearing very expensive clothes that only the richest people in England could buy.

His **Padded Doublet** has little cuts in it, called **slashes**, which allowed the small puffs of the white linen shirt underneath to be pulled through and make an interesting design. It also has real jewels, such as **Sapphires** and **Rubies** sown into it.

Henry's coat has huge, wide shoulders which have been **padded** with **whale bone** and **cotton stuffing**.

The coat is trimmed at the edges with the dark brown fur of **mink**.

These clothes and all the padding made Henry look very **strong, powerful and wealthy** – which is how a king had to look if he wanted people to obey him and do what he said!



Rich ladies in Tudor times had to wear lots of layers of clothing to show how rich and important their family was. To get dressed they had to wear:

Linen (cotton)
Underdress or
chemise



Padded roll
(to make skirts
and dress stick
out)



Farthingale
(skirt with whale
bone hoops)



Kirtle (rich
designed
panel skirt)



Petticoat (skirt
worn over the
farthingale)



The rich ladies dress was completed with:

French Hood
(fan shaped headdress)

Separate sleeves trimmed
with fur

Dress with V shape cut
out at the bottom to show
the Kirtle

Silver Pomander
(with sweet smelling
flowers and herbs inside)



This is a portrait of **Lady Jane Grey** when she became **Queen of England**.

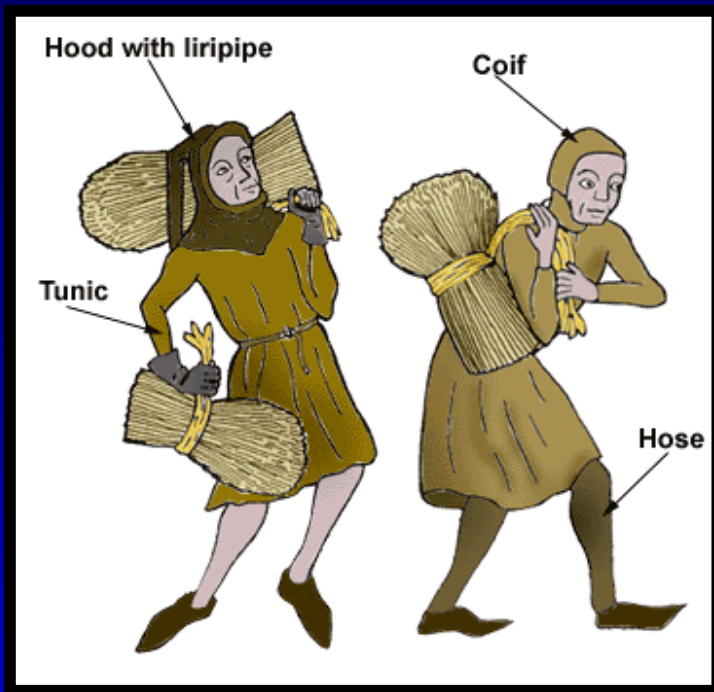
She is wearing the latest Tudor fashion for ladies clothing.

Her clothes have been cut and padded to make **very strong shapes**, which the Tudors liked to see in the clothes of important wealthy people.

What types of shapes can you see in her clothing?

What other features on her clothing can you see?





Peasant people in Tudor times wore very different clothes to Rich Tudors.

Peasants had very little money and so they made their own clothes.

They made their clothes mainly from **wool, rough cotton and leather**.

They would wear the same clothes all the time, every day, until they wore out, and only then would the peasants make new clothes.



Many peasants and poor Tudor people wore:

Wool or leather cap

Rough cotton shirt

Wool coat or Tunic

Wool breeches
(trousers)

Leather boots or shoes

Rough cotton cap

Cotton
chemise or
underdress

Rough cotton
or wool dress

Rough cotton apron

Wool skirt





Did you know?
Tudor people never had a bath!

Peasant Tudors never washed and only changed their clothes when they wore out.

Rich Tudors hardly ever washed and only changed their clothes for different events they were going to.

Often, ladies would wear a new dress over the top of an old one that had worn out!

To cover up the smell of their bodies, Rich Tudor ladies and men would wear perfume.



Elizabeth I was a very unusual Tudor because she would have a bath and wash once every month!

She would also wear white powder on her face. Many Rich Tudor ladies wore **white powder** on their faces because they liked to show people that they stayed inside and did not get a **suntan**.



A suntan in Tudor times meant that you worked outside a lot. Only the peasants worked outside and got suntans. Therefore, Rich Tudor ladies wore **white powder** to exaggerate their pale skin colour and show they were not like peasants with suntans.

The white powder was made from the metal **lead** which was crushed into a fine powder.

Lead metal is poisonous.

Elizabeth I wore so much powdered lead that she **died** in 1603 of **lead poisoning**.





Can you identify which are the Richest Tudors, and which are the Poorest Tudors in this picture?

Can you tell what jobs these Tudors did from their clothes?